**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace Paragraph No. 0015 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0015] The fire-insulating wall covering preferably contains 35-50% by weight sand, while the $SiO_2$ content is preferably lower than 2.5% by weight, more preferably lower than 2% by weight. By opting for a relatively low $SiO_2$ content in combination with an optimal choice of the quantity of greywacke ~~greywacke,~~ (preferably at least 40% by weight, and still more preferably at least 50% by weight), optimum fire-insulating properties are obtained and the fire breakthrough can be extended a very long time and far beyond the test time (2 hours). --

Please replace Paragraph No. 0018 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0018] ii) 35-50% by weight sand with an $SiO_2$ content smaller than 2% by weight and a greywacke content preferably greater than 40% by weight, and more preferably greater than 50% by weight; and --

Please replace Paragraph No. 0020 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0020] The best properties are obtained if in this case the cement is a low-chromate cement. Persons having ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the construction industry in Germany and in Scandinavia may now frequently utilize

low-chromate cements which, in keeping with the *Approved Code of Practice* that was adopted by the German legislature in 1993, are cements that contain levels of water soluble chromates substantially at less than about 2 ppm in a bag of cement and/or in ready-mixed concrete. Such cements are hereinthroughout referred to as cements containing "low-chromate." --

Please replace Paragraph No. 0028 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0028] The novel features which are believed to be characteristic of the fire-insulating wall covering according to the present invention, as to its structure, organization, use and methods of operation and/or preparation, together with further objectives and advantages thereof, will be better understood from the following drawings in which a presently preferred embodiment of the invention will now be illustrated by way of example. It is expressly understood, however, that the drawings are for the purpose of illustration and description only, and are not intended as a definition of the limits of the invention. In the accompanying drawings: ~~FIGS. 1 and 3 each show a perspective view of a space provided with a fire insulating wall covering; and FIGS. 2 and 4 each show a cross-section at the position of details II and IV respectively of FIGS. 1 and 3.~~ --

Please add the following new paragraphs after Paragraph No. 0028:

-- [0029] Figure 1 is a front side perspective view of a tunnel provided with a fire insulating wall covering according to the invention, showing arrow II; --

-- [0030] Figure 2 is a bottom horizontal sectional view of the tunnel of Figure 1, directed along arrow II; --

-- [0031] Figure 3 is a front side perspective view of a pedestrian passage provided with a fire insulating wall covering according to the invention, showing arrow IV; and --

-- [0032] Figure 4 is a bottom horizontal sectional view of the pedestrian passage of Figure 3, directed along arrow IV. --